

**INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC MEETING ON THE USE OF \$200,000
FEDERAL BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT**

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

3:00 pm

RI DEM Headquarters, Room 300

235 Promenade Street

Providence, RI 02908

Meeting Notes

Attendees: See below.

Meeting began at 3:10 pm.

- Open remarks/presentation by Cynthia Gianfrancesco from RI DEM's Office of Waste Management. Explained the difference between the TBA program she runs on an annual basis and the funding the Department has available through the 2007 Brownfields Assessment competitive grant.

- Proposals not accepted for funding under the grant will be held onto by RI DEM and placed into the regular pool for possible TBA future funding.

- The money will not be provided directly to successful applicants – rather, RI DEM will use technical assistance contractors (TACs) to perform the site assessments. Once access agreements (see below) are finalized, RI DEM hands off the project (Phase I, II and cleanup planning) to a TAC.
- Described the seven eligible communities - Warwick, West Warwick, Cranston, Coventry, Woonsocket, Central Falls and Pawtucket – as outlined in DEM’s application to EPA (Dec. 2006) and Workplan (June 2007).
- Discussion about the application process – applications accepted through October 15, 2007.
- Described the process by which RI DEM will prioritize applications for the two Phase I’s, two Phase II’s and two cleanup plans.
- Explained the process by which RI DEM will need to get final sign off from EPA before funding is allocated for a particular site.
- Explained the process by which RI DEM will need to obtain “property access agreements from owners.” Applicants do not need to be property owners to be eligible for grant funding.
- Outlined various ways that municipalities can tap into this grant funding - - e.g. in the case of tax delinquent properties.

- Explained that some assessments might be subject to additional public notice requirements if the proposed redevelopment falls into certain categories outlined in the Industrial Property Remediation and Reuse Act (IPRRA), such as recreational facilities for public use, schools, or child care facilities. See (RI GL §23-19.14-5) for more information.

- Discussion about the new application point scoring system. (A typo was identified in question 10(c).)

- Explained federal funding cycle – DEM expects to have funding available from EPA on or about October 1, 2007.

- Discussion about the application review process and when successful applicants can expect to see assessments begin.

RI DEM will take about one month to review applications received by October 15, 2007. EPA then needs to review applications. Access agreements need to be completed. Phase I (performed by TAC) will take 30-60 days to complete. For those properties going through both a Phase I and Phase II assessment, the estimated completion date is the 2nd half of 2008.

- Meeting attendees were allowed to continue asking questions about the application and assessment process.

- Discussion about RI DEM's expectations after a Remedial Decision Letter is issued – it was explained that the Department would expect that a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) would be completed. RI DEM expects that the contamination identified by the Phase I & II will be cleaned up within a reasonable timeframe.

Attendees:

Kevin Cooney

Representing: Self

David Foss

Fuss +O'Neill

Robert Malavich

Town Planner, West Warwick

Shannon Daigle

Woodward + Curran

Peter Grivers

EA Engineering

Richardson Ogidan

Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation

Louis Ragozzino

The Louis Berger Group

Chris Hannifan

Housing Network of Rhode Island

Maren Luciani

Town of Coventry

David Heislein

Mactec Engineering

Taylor Ellis

House of Hope Community Development Corporation

J. Baron

Pawtucket Times

Cynthia Gianfrancesco

RI DEM, Office of Waste Management

Elizabeth Stone

RI DEM, Director's Office

Chris Kearns

RI DEM (intern)